

NEWRY MEETING (IRELAND), 8TH JUNE, 1884.

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COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND LORD ARTHUR HILL, M.P.,

ON THE SUBJECT OF

THE PROHIBITION OF COUNTER DEMONSTRATIONS;

AND ALSO

COPIES OF CERTAIN OFFICIAL REPORTS MADE TO THE IRISH  
GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO THE NATIONALIST MEETING  
HELD AT NEWRY, ON SUNDAY, THE 8TH JUNE, 1884.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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NEWRY MEETING (IRELAND), 8TH JUNE, 1884.

A.—COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE.

L.—LETTER from the UNDER SECRETARY to the LORD LIEUTENANT to LORD ARTHUR HILL, M.P.

Dublin Castle, 2nd June, 1884.

My LORD.—I am desired by His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to advert to a telegram, addressed by your Lordship to the Chief Secretary in reference to the meeting summoned as to be held at Newry on June 1st, wherein you say that the Orangemen desire to regulate their conduct by the action pursued by the Irish Executive.

His Excellency caused a telegram to be sent to your Lordship informing you that he had stopped, by proclamation, both the meeting originally summoned and that which appears to have been summoned by your Lordship and Colonel Waring, and I am now desired to inform you that it was with great regret that he felt obliged to take this step.

There was nothing in the placards summoning the original meeting which, in the opinion of His Excellency would have led him to anticipate from it any danger to the public peace, but when summonses were issued for a counter demonstration His Excellency thought it his duty to consult those acquainted with the locality, and reluctantly came to the conclusion that the risk to property and life consequent upon the collection of large bodies of men of hostile views in the immediate neighbourhood of Newry would have been so great, even with the protection of an enormous force of military and police, that he could not undertake the responsibility of allowing the meetings to be held.

His Excellency has felt compelled to review carefully the events connected with the various meetings which have been summoned in the North of Ireland, and the action of the Irish Government in dealing with them.

It has been his desire to permit public meetings to be held in Ireland, and he has only exercised the powers conferred upon him of suspending them when no other means were open of preserving law and order.

It would appear, however, that the Orange party in the North of Ireland have now adopted the deliberate policy of calling a counter-demonstration, to be held at the same time as, and in the immediate neighbourhood of, every meeting to the objects and penalties of which they are opposed. This policy has led, and must, in the opinion of his Excellency, always lead to the most serious risk to property and life, which cannot with certainty be neutralised even by great bodies of military and police when both meetings are allowed to go on.

On the other hand, his Excellency cannot permit any direct or indirect interference with the discretion which he reserves entirely to the Government of deciding whether a meeting shall or shall not be allowed to take place.

His Excellency, therefore, cannot in future permit such action to be taken by the Orange party or any other party in the country.

If his Excellency sees no reason to prohibit a meeting, he will not as a rule allow any counter-demonstration to be held in the same neighbourhood and on the same day. The counter-demonstration will not be interfered with (provided there is no objection to it on other grounds) if held at a time and place which will not bring hostile bodies into close proximity, and will itself be similarly protected.

His Excellency was unwilling to adopt this course at Newry, as he thought that sufficient notice of the reasons for his proposed action should be given.

But he now desires distinctly to give notice to the Orange Body represented by your Lordship, and to other bodies which may contemplate counter-demonstrations to meetings which, if held alone, would not be interfered with by the Government, that this is the policy which he will pursue with the object of maintaining the right of public meeting and of preserving the public peace, objects which, he ventures to hope, that your Lordship and those who act with you will agree with him in thinking are of paramount importance to the people of this country.

I have, etc.,

R. G. C. HAMILTON,

To Lord Arthur Hill, M.P.,  
The Castle, Hillsborough.

\* The Telegram referred to was dated 30th May, 1884, and was as follows:-

From  
Lord Arthur Hill,  
Westerham, Kent

To Right Hon. G. O. Trevelyan, M.P.,  
Dulwich Castle.

Kindly wire on receipt of this telegram whether the Lord Lieutenant intends to proclaim Nationalist meeting advertised to be held at Newry, Sunday next. I ask this as the Orangemen desire to regulate their conduct by the action pursued by the Irish Executive.

## II.—LETTER from LORD ARTHUR HILL, K.P., to the UNDER SECRETARY to the LORD LIEUTENANT.

House of Commons, 6th June, 1884.

Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst., and I regret that it is couched in language of provocation in no way justified, I submit, by my communication to the Chief Secretary, to which it professes to be a reply.

I have to express my surprise that his Excellency should have thought it expedient now to announce a policy in reference to public meetings which is obviously calculated to encourage the disloyal and to hamper the action of her Majesty's subjects in Ireland who are true to her Crown and to the maintenance of the Union.

No surprise can be felt if an announcement so strange should be attributed less to consistency and courage than to a desire to conciliate those who, possessed of much political power, steadily apply their resources to the purpose of disintegrating the United Kingdom. His Excellency has been pleased to instruct you to say that in the placards summoning the Nationalist meeting at Newry there was nothing to lead him to anticipate danger to the public peace. I am not aware that it is a practice so to proclaim beforehand objectionable intentions; but the experience of the last few years has taught us that similar meetings, held under like auspices, have been too often the precursors of criminal agitation, sedition, and outrage. The loyalists of Ulster, animated by a desire to fulfil their duty to the Queen, and in self-defence, have protested in every legitimate manner against the attempted dissemination of doctrines which, they are convinced, involve peril to the authority of the Sovereign and are fraught with danger to her loyal subjects.

It is for the law-abiding classes within the Constitution to assert and defend their principles. They are in a minority in Ireland, and their position is one of anxiety and difficulty. They will regret, many of them, I fear, with bitter feelings, that in this great crisis the Executive has thought it prudent to use words calculated to render their position still more anxious and difficult. For my part I shall continue to use such influence as I possess in support of the law. The responsibility for the consequences of their new policy must rest entirely with the Government.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

ARTHUR HILL.

Sir R. G. C. Hamilton, Dublin Castle.

## B.—COPY OF OFFICIAL REPORTS.

## III.—Report from Mr. H. G. CARY, County Inspector of Armagh.

Newry, 8th June, 1884.

I have to report that about the hour of 2 o'clock, p.m., this day, a large procession from the neighbourhood of Hilltown and Mayo-bridge, county Down, with bands and banners, passed through the principal streets of the town and as far as William-street, which is at the extreme end of the town, where they were joined by another procession which had formed on the Mall. The entire body, numbering about 8,000, having seven bands and sixteen banners, turned up Castle-street, and again marched through the principal streets and went to the place of meeting, about one mile from the town. The banners bore the inscriptions "God save Ireland," "For God and your Country," "The Land for the People," &c. The meeting lasted until about 5 o'clock, p.m., and was addressed by Messrs. T. D. Sullivan, John F. Small, w.r., John Dudley (Belfast), O'Brien, w.r., John Ferguson (Glasgow), Iver McGuinness (Peyntquin), Father O'Neill (Rostrevor), Father Quin (Camlough). The meeting lasted two hours and a quarter. It terminated at 5.15 p.m., when it returned to town, reaching it about a quarter to 6 o'clock, and shortly after it passed the Orange Hall some stones were thrown at it by some members of the opposite party, who were dispersed by the police. The contingents from Camlough and Newry, who had escorted the Mayo-bridge party some short distance outside the town, were attacked with stones when returning. I was in rear of the procession at the time, and had the parties dispersed by the police. Mr. Wray, county inspector, was more in front. On the procession approaching the Orange Hall several shots were fired out of the window and doors. This exasperated the National party, who retaliated by throwing stones at the windows, breaking two panes of glass. More shots were then fired from the windows of the Protestant Hall, and one of the bullets, which passed through a shutter of a window on the opposite side of the street, has been found. Mr. Wray, county inspector, ordered District Inspector Green and party to force their way into the Orange Hall, and all the persons therein, sixty-seven in number, were placed under arrest. Five revolvers were found in the room and one outside, under the window. Some presented the appearance of having been recently discharged, and some of the chambers of them were still loaded. Two of the prisoners—viz., Charles Kernaghan, publican, Newry, George Morrison, keeper of the Orange Hall—have been fully identified by the police as having fired shots from the window and door, and Kernaghan had a number of revolver cartridges in his possession. A third man, William Orr, clerk, Newry, was observed throwing a revolver out of the window by District Inspector Green, and he has been discharged, on a guarantee given by his solicitor to appear on to-morrow, and Kernaghan and Morrison have been committed to goal until Wednesday next. All of the other prisoners have been discharged, to be summoned if necessary. When the procession was returning towards the Orange Hall down Sandy-street some stones were thrown at it over the tops of houses. As far as I can ascertain no person has been injured. I consider the prompt action taken by County Inspector Wray and District Inspector Green is deserving of the greatest praise, as the course they pursued will be the means of bringing some of the guilty parties to justice. The magisterial inquiry did not terminate until 12 o'clock midnight.

H. G. CARY, County Inspector.

IV.—JOINT REPORT from Mr. J. S. McLEOD, Mr. F. J. McCARTHY, and MAJOR WYSE, Resident Magistrates.

Newry, 26th June, 1884.

In continuation of telegram wired to you yesterday, we have now the honour to state that the so-called Nationalist procession, which was an unusually large one, persons having estimated the numbers as little short of 8,000, with bands and banners, principally trade ones, none of which were considered objectionable, assembled on the Mall of this town about one o'clock, p.m.

The Mayo Bridge contingent, coming in to reach the place of meeting, had to pass the Orange Hall, which was occupied by Orangemen, whom, we were assured on authority, were better to be kept there as less likely to do mischief than if allowed to roam through the town.

When passing to the place of meeting there was nothing remarkable in the demeanour of the processionists or that of the Orangemen occupying the Hall. About two o'clock, p.m., the procession, having taken a circuit of some of the streets, proceeded to the field where the meeting took place, and which is about one mile from Newry, on the Warrenpoint-road. At an early hour our arrangements were perfected; 200 Constabulary were posted at different parts of the town in which, in the estimation of those best acquainted with the locality, a collision might be expected; 200 infantry were placed in the courthouse, which is only about twenty yards from the Orange Hall; 100 infantry at the bridge, which is not far from the place of meeting; and the cavalry with the rest of the infantry were kept in readiness to turn out at a moment's notice. Cars were also prepared in case of emergency. Measures were taken smoothly until the return about six o'clock, p.m., which was later than we had been led to expect. The Mayo Bridge party, escorted by a large number of the townsmen on their return, stones were thrown at them by some men who had crept in behind the cordon of the Constabulary, and though there was some retaliation, there was no stoppage to the progress of the procession. On arrival at Windsor Hill stones were again thrown by some persons in the fields, and a shot was fired. A large force of Constabulary under our immediate command had moved up quickly and dispersed the stone throwers, and the procession proceeded.

After going about half a mile the Mayo Bridge and the Newry men separated—the former continuing their journey, and the latter returned to Newry in procession, with bands playing, &c., which was contrary to what we had been informed.

As there was some apprehension that the Mayo Bridge men might be attacked under the cover of a little wood, Major Wyse with a party of Constabulary proceeded with them, Messrs. McLeod and McCarthy returning to protect the Newry men, particularly passing the Orange Hall. Going down Sandy-street some stones were thrown by both sides. The streets leading to the Orange party had been blocked by the constables, and a serious collision was consequently averted. The two Resident Magistrates in charge of a strong force of Constabulary moved on the ranks of the processionists, and before arriving at the Orange Hall stones were thrown by both parties, and on passing the Orange Hall several revolver shots were fired from the Hall at the processionists, some of which Messrs. McLeod and McCarthy witnessed. The processionists retaliated by breaking several panes of glass, about ten or twelve in number. To enable the Constabulary to arrest the parties in the Hall it was necessary to force open the outer door, which was promptly and energetically done by District Inspector Greene from Kildare. Mr. McCarthy, who was on the spot, rushed in and gave orders to have all the doors guarded and to allow no one out of the Hall. The police arrested sixty-seven persons in the Hall; they found five revolvers in the principal room and one afterwards underneath the room, which was seen to be thrown out of the window. We beg to attach copies of the Depositions which were taken subsequently by Major Wyse, R.M., and which are accurate. The military were promptly called into requisition, and the disturbance, which was of short duration, was quelled by Mr. McLeod, R.M. This magistrate received a severe blow of a stone which struck him on the shoulder and cut his coat.

Strong police patrols were kept up until an early hour this morning, and we are happy to be able to say that the rest of the evening and night passed over very quietly. We are glad to be able to report that neither from the revolver shots nor the stone throwing has any personal injury been reported or comes to our knowledge. It is but right to state that a revolver bullet had penetrated through a window-shutter and was afterwards found in the house which was opposite to the Hall, and in the direction from whence the shots were being fired.

On Major Wyse's return he proceeded at once with a strong cavalry and Constabulary escort, at the solicitation of the Rev. Mr. Quinn, R.C., to Bessbrook; but the procession had peacefully passed without any interference.

In carrying out this duty the officers and men of the Constabulary were zealous and afforded us every assistance.

(Signed),

J. S. McLEOD, R.M.  
F. J. McCARTHY, R.M.  
A. G. WYSE, R.M.

To the Under Secretary,  
Dublin Castle.

## V.—SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT from MAJOR WYSE, R.M.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT from Major Wyse, R.M., containing his observations on the account given in *The Times* newspaper :-

Newry, 11th June, 1884.

I herewith enclose report called for by telegram yesterday.

(Signed) A. G. WYSE, R.M.

1. Generally correct, except as regards strength of troops and police.

REPORT of the proceedings published in *The Times* newspaper of 9th June, 1884.

Newry, June 8.

1. The Nationalist meeting was held to-day in a field on the Warrenpoint-road, and was not interfered with by the Orange body. The town was in a state of considerable excitement during the day, as, indeed, it has been since the intention to hold a Nationalist demonstration was first mooted. The Orangemen, of whom there are a great many in the district, felt very much irritated by the letter addressed by Lord Spencer to Lord Arthur Hill, and it was at first thought more than probable that they would in some form or other put in an appearance to-day. The authorities, as a matter of precaution, brought in a large body of military and police, who were distributed in different places through the town. Some details of the numbers may prove interesting as showing the trouble taken by the Executive to preserve the peace. There were 175 men of the Enniskilling Fusiliers from Belfast, under the command of Captain Greenfield; two officers and 75 men from the depot at Armagh; three officers and 80 men of the 16th Lancers from Dundalk and Belfast; and five officers and 175 men of the Enniskilling Fusiliers from Enniskillen, all under the command of Colonel Bellamy. Of the constabulary, there were 40 men from Louth, under District Inspector Ree; 30 men from Meath, under District Inspector Baymire; 30 men from Derry, under District Inspector Bonard; 40 men from Fermanagh, under District Inspector Otter; 60 men from Tyrone, under District Inspector Allibut; 40 men from Armagh, under District Inspector Bigley; 40 men from Kildare, under District Inspector Greene; and a Head Constable and 20 men from the Phoenix Park Depot. There were also in charge County Inspector Carey, of Armagh, and County Inspector Wray, of Downpatrick. The magistrates responsible for the peace were Mr. J. S. Macleod, M.P., Mr. F. J. McCarthy, M.P., and Major Wyse, R.M. The patrolling of the police and the movements of the military early attracted a good deal of attention, and the streets continually crowded during the day. The bands daily arrayed in fanciful green uniforms, paraded the thoroughfares before the meeting, without being molested in any way.

2. At a meeting of Orangemen in the Orange Hall on the previous evening Mr. Thomson, M.P., for the borough, counselled the brethren to do nothing contrary to the terms of the proclamation, which had been extensively placarded through the town, prohibiting any counter meeting. He reminded them that they would have their turn on the 12th of July next, and to make it all the more imposing he would ask Lord Arthur Hill to forego the intended demonstration at Hillsborough, and to have a grand united gathering in Newry. Several communications were read at the meeting from Orangemen in London offering help and encouragement. One stated that 400 Orangemen had left for Newry before word was received that the meeting was proclaimed. In consequence of this telegram a considerable number of Protestants proceeded this morning to Warrenpoint where, it was thought, the London visitors would land; but it was subsequently found that they had been stopped on the way. This was the only assemblage of Orangemen during the day, and they dispersed quietly without bringing themselves into any prominence.

3. Mr. T. Sullivan and Mr. O'Brien, M.P., arrived from Dublin about 2 o'clock, and shortly afterwards a procession of several thousand Nationalists was formed, and proceeded to the rendezvous. On the motion of Father McCartan, the chair was taken by Mr. Small, M.P., who expressed the pride and gratification which he, as an Ulsterman, felt in seeing assembled so many of the men of his native province, to declare on Ulster

2. (a) True. Mr. Thomson, M.P., told me so himself, and I believe him.

. (e) Not true.

(o) No assembly took place at Warrenpoint or elsewhere. The only collection of Orangemen throughout the day was in the Orange Hall, and was collected by Mr. Thomson and Rev. T. Panton, and the latter went in and out all day, and left about an hour before shots were fired from the windows.

3. Although I was present at the meeting I could not get near enough to the platform to hear the speeches in consequence of the crowd, but I understood Government reporters were present on the platform.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT from Major WYNNE, R.M., containing his observations on the account given in *The Times* newspaper—continued.

Report of the proceedings published in *The Times* newspaper of 9th June, 1884—continued.

soil their adhesion to the National movement. They had often been told that the three southern provinces were entirely with them. But they had also been told that the North was not with them. If that statement required any answer it was surely given by the demonstration before him. They would send forth a message that day to prove that the National movement was not confined to the other three provinces. The Nationalists of the north had no quarrel with the Orangemen for what had happened during the past few weeks. They knew that the hearts of the farmers of Ulster of all creeds were with them. They knew well that the appearance of opposition that was got up to their meetings had not been the act of the great mass even of the Orange body, but of a few Orange landlords who saw their rank-and-file slipping away from them, and of men with corrupt motives. (Cheers.) They would welcome into their national ranks every Irishman, no matter what his creed might be. They felt no bitterness for what had passed. Those who won the day could afford to be forgiving. The Nationalists had won the day, and they did forgive. (Cheers.) The general election would soon be upon them, and they desired to send a man to represent Newry who would stand with Parnell and the National party. (Cheers.)

Mr. Creasy, hon. sec., then read the resolutions which were to be submitted. They declared that in exercising the right of public meeting they owed no thanks, and they gave none, to the vacillating and unscrupulous Whig Government which, under the dictation of a pack of Orange landlords and their hired retainers, flisked away their rights; that self-government was the inalienable right of the Irish, and they claimed the privilege of managing their own affairs on Irish soil; that the only hope for the country, as far as the English Parliament was concerned, lay in the active policy of the Irish Parliamentary party, and it was hoped that at the next election Mr. Parnell would be supported by an earnest band of loyal, tried, and trusted Irishmen, and they were glad to see Athlone taking the first practical steps towards this end by returning the son of Mr. Justin McCarthy; that landlords must be got out of the country; recommending registration and the formation of branches of the National League, and regretting that the labourers of the district had not received any advantages from the Act intended to serve them.

Mr. T. D. Sullivan said the success of the meeting spoke for itself, and he congratulated them upon the magnificence of their triumph. They had won the important right of public meeting, and it could not be taken away from them. For that great victory the thanks of all Ireland were due to the brave-hearted, courageous, and persevering people of Newry. Their motto had been "No surrender," words not used in the sense in which they were so frequently used by a faction in the country, but used in a broad and national sense. The freedom they claimed for themselves and the freedom they had won they freely accorded to others. They did not wish to stifle the voice of public opinion in Ulster. They did not want to trample on the rights of any party, no matter how small or insignificant they might be. If any section or party in Ulster had any arguments to put forward on behalf of their own views or against the Nationalist views, there was room enough for them. Earl Spencer had been a dull scholar, but he had at length learned his lesson. The principle upon which he had now acted was just as good and right twelve months ago as it was now. If they transgressed the law, it was the business not of a faction or party in Ulster or elsewhere, but of the constituted authorities, to bring them to account. Their meeting was the latest evidence of the fact that the Irish cause and the Irish people were marching to victory and triumphing all along the line (loud cheers). Before long they should have won the elective franchise, which would be another great act of emancipation for the long-oppressed and down-trodden.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT from Major WYKE, R.M., containing his observations on the account given in *The Times* newspaper—continued.

REPORT of the proceedings published in *The Times* newspaper of 9th June, 1884—continued.

people of Ireland; and when they had that franchise it would be impossible for any power on earth to keep the Irish nation much longer in a condition of slavery (cheers). The day of freedom and liberation was dawning for them all, and its glorious light would fall upon the house and heart of the Orangeman as well as of the Nationalist. Referring to the week of the party in the House of Commons, Mr. Sullivan said they intended to amend the Land Act, the Labourers Act, and the Land Purchase Act, and they would yet break every landlord, bailiff, and agent. The landlords were at present "frying in their own fat," and, no doubt, Mr. Trevelyan would be very glad to take them off the gridiron, but the Irish party were in no particular hurry to enable him. The presence of the thousands before him confuted the lying humbug that had been circulated by a mendacious press. That day would be memorable in the history of Ireland, for it emancipated the province from the first attempt to suppress the right of free speech and of public meeting (cheers).

Mr. O'Brien, M.P., also spoke. The only people, he said, he missed from the meeting were the 1,500 Orange warriors who were to have come over from England to subdue them all up—Nationalists, Lancashire, and all. The victory the patriotic men of Newry had just gained was almost as important for Ulster as the Act of Emancipation had been for the rest of Ireland. There was now an end to landlord ascendancy in Ulster to-day. The last shackles of inferiority felt from the hands of the masters of the north. From Dublin Castle itself it was now proclaimed that the will of the people of Ulster must in the long run prevail. They had no desire to exult over a fallen foe. For their Protestant fellow-countrymen they had nothing but open arms, good-will, and welcome. Their only quarrel was with landlordism and with the alien rule which kept the Irish people *anudder* and the country in a state of poverty and decay.

Mr. J. F. Ferguson, of Glasgow, and other speakers followed, and the meeting broke up.

4. While a party of the processionalists, on their return home, were passing the Orange Hall shots were fired out of it, and one man was injured. All the persons in the Hall at the time were instantly put under arrest. With this exceptional incident the peace of the day remained undisturbed.

#### LATER.

5. While the procession was passing the Orange Hall the processionalists were peaceable and orderly, and no insulting language was used; but they were garrisoned by a party of men who were standing at the corner of Downshire-road, and were, no doubt, exclusively formed of about twenty Orangemen. This party was at once removed by the police without any difficulty. No stones were thrown by either side at this point.

The police did not charge, nor was there anything approaching to a riot, and the procession was not stopped for even a moment. About 300 yards further on (at A in attached map of Newry) the processionalists were stoned by the opposite party from the fields at each side of the road. This was the beginning of the stone-throwing, and up to this time the processionalists had behaved in a very orderly manner.

The stone-throwing continued for about 300 yards further on, while the procession moved on to point marked B in map, and then divided itself into two—one going towards Rathfriland, and the other returning to Newry by the same route they had come.

The latter party were stoned from the fields at each side of the road, and by groups of people at the ends of the streets opening out on the route, and were, no doubt, also Orangemen.

When approaching the Orange Hall (black circle in map, near A, on outskirts of town) on their return journey, stones were thrown over the roofs of some of the houses from the rear and fell among the processionalists, but I have not heard of anyone being struck

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT from Major WYRE, R.M., containing his observations on the account given in *The Times* newspaper—continued.

except Mr. Macleod, R.M., and it is merely a slight bruise on right shoulder, and not of any consequence. Mr. Small, R.M., and the Reverend P. Quinn, parish priest, of Camlough, near this town, were with others in the brake referred to, but both of them deny having used any threatening language, or anyone do so within their hearing, or wave hats, or, in fact, do anything of a defiant nature. The former directed the route of the procession at this point, but I cannot obtain any evidence to show that the threats complained of were used. Do not myself believe anything of the kind.

Shots were fired by the parties in the Orange Hall (vide depositions taken, copies of which were forwarded on the 5th instant), and stones were thrown by processionalists, but at present there is no evidence as to which side began the disturbance.

One Nationalist and two Orangemen have been arrested for stone-throwing, and their cases were adjourned for a week at the Petty Sessions held at Newry to-day.

There is also no evidence that shots were fired from the procession, and none of them were seen or known to be armed either with fire-arms or sticks.

There were very few drunken persons to be seen throughout the day, and the public-houses were closed from 7 A.M. on Sunday to 7 A.M. on Monday. In fact, with the exception of the incident at the Orange Hall at 6 P.M. and shortly before, the conduct of the Nationalists was very good, and the town exceptionally orderly, considering the circumstances.

The police were obliged to use their batons when dispersing the stone-throwers, but no information has reached me that persons returning from church have been injured. I am not aware that the police were excited or acted indiscriminately.

Two of them were reported to their officers as having struck persons with their batons in the execution of their duty in dispersing the crowds; but every facility was given to the parties complaining to prosecute, the names of the constables being given, &c. However, no summons has as yet been taken out against any constable.

I am not aware of another National meeting being about to be held at Armagh on next Sunday.

I herewith enclose a copy of the *Feuary Reporter* of yesterday, which gives a detailed account of the whole of last Sunday's proceedings, and is substantially correct. It represents itself as a Liberal paper, but does not exactly represent the Nationalists.

Signed, A. G. WYRE, R.M.

Newry, 11th June, 1884.

*Note.*—The map referred to in the foregoing report was a portion of the Ordnance Survey map. It could not be conveniently included in the Parliamentary paper, but the report seems sufficiently clear without it.

#### VI.—REPORT from Mr. H. B. LAW, District Inspector, R.I.C.

Newry, 10th June, 1884.

On Sunday, 5th instant, a Nationalist demonstration was held in Newry, and attended by some eight or ten thousand people. About 6 P.M., when the Rathfriland side contingent were returning home, escorted part of the way by the contingents from the districts on the other side of the town, they passed the Orange Hall.

A short distance beyond this, on the Rathfriland road, stones were thrown at the procession from fields by persons of the opposite party, who were at once dispersed by the police. About a quarter of a mile from the town the procession divided, the Rathfriland contingent going home, and the others, who up to this accompanied them, retraced their steps to the town. Notwithstanding all the efforts of the Constabulary, who lined the fields and occupied points along the road, the stone-throwing continued, the stones being thrown over the heads of the police. At all places along the route, at streets opening on the line of the procession, there were persons assembled throwing stones, and had to be dispersed by the Constabulary. On entering the street approaching the Orange Hall stones were thrown over the houses from their roofs at the processionalists. When passing the Orange Hall shots were fired from the Hall, and stones were thrown by the processionalists. I cannot say which side actually commenced the attack at this point. Up to the time of being attacked on the Rathfriland road the conduct of the processionalists was perfectly orderly.

The only person struck by the shot was a lad, whose shoe was pierced by a small bullet, and the left big toe bruised, but the skin was not broken. Another of the bullets pierced a shutter of a shop front opposite the

REPORT of the proceedings published in *The Times* newspaper of 5th June, 1884—continued.

of such a danger, as he has always set his face against any proceeding calculated to create bad feeling among the people. The Orange party state that they will not oppose the meeting, but they will attend it and move amendments to the resolutions.

Hall, and was found in the shop. A mark of another bullet was found in the plaster of the wall of the same house. There were sixteen pieces of glass broken in the Orange Hall. When the shots were fired from the Hall Mr. Wray, County Inspector, Down, and Mr. W. J. Greene, District Inspector, Kildare, promptly forced the door of the Hall with some men, and arrested all the persons in the house. On search being made, four revolvers were found inside and some ball cartridges. Two other revolvers (ranking six seized in all) were thrown out of the windows, and picked up outside by the Constabulary. Five out of the six had some of the chambers recently discharged. Sixty-seven persons were arrested in the Hall—see list of names—and on one of them (Kernaghan) seven revolver cartridges were found which fit two of the revolvers. This man has been identified as having fired from the windows. Two other men (Orr and Morrison) have also been identified as having fired from the Hall. The three were remanded to next Petty Sessions, on to-morrow. Orr was allowed out by Major Wyne, R.M., on his solicitor's guarantee that he would be in attendance then. The other sixty-four were discharged, their names being taken, to be summoned if necessary. Inquiries are still being actively pursued. I have just received information against another man as having been seen fire, who will be arrested. I shall report result of proceedings at Petty Sessions to-morrow.

Signed, H. B. Law.

P.S.—The list of names, waiting one or two further inquiries, will be furnished to-morrow.

#### VII.—REPORT from Mr. H. G. CARY, County Inspector of Armagh.

County Inspector's Office,  
Armagh, 13th June, 1884.

#### NATIONALIST MEETING in NEWRY on 8th June.—ALLEGED MISCONDUCT of the POLICE.

Submitted.

I was at the end of Talbot-street when the Newry and Omagh contingents were returning after having left the main body of the procession outside the town. I observed a crowd in Talbot-street who threw stones at the procession when passing Mr. Law, M.P., and a mounted orderly rode up Talbot-street for the purpose of clearing it. Immediately after I sent three mounted orderlies to his assistance, also some infantry men with instructions to clear the street. Some of the National party were endeavouring to get up Talbot-street after the Orangemen; this I prevented by forming a cordon at the end of the street, and formed a second cordon a little higher up to keep back the Orange party.

One man in Talbot-street had his sword fixed on his rifle; the officer in charge, District Inspector Seymour, at once ordered him to take it off.

I moved down Sandy-street to the Orange Hall, I observed no act of violence committed by the police in either Talbot-street or Sandy-street; and I know nothing of what is stated at C.\*

As regards a paragraph which appeared in a newspaper that the police were under the influence of drink, I consider same to be a gross misstatement. The men were all inspected by their officers previous to their going on duty that morning, and Mr. Wray, C.I. and I went to all the straw lodges and ascertained all was right previous to their going on duty.

I drove frequently round the town the entire day and visited the patrols, &c., &c., and found them all correct.

From inquiries made since I reported on Sunday night, I have no doubt as to the accuracy of my statement of the occurrence, and that the shots were fired from the Orange Hall previous to the volley of stones being thrown at the latter.

(Signed), H. G. CARY.

The Inspector-General.

\* The reference here is to a passage in the report of the proceedings published in the "Daily Express" of 9th June, 1884, as follows:—"In one case a respectable young man passing along the Downshire road was severely beaten about the head with the stock of a policeman's rifle. The man reported the matter to the County Inspector who had the policeman, at once, placed under arrest."